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STATE OF MICHIGAN
LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC GROWTH
ROBERT W. SWANSON, DIRECTOR

NIDA R. SAMONA
LIQUOR COMMISSION
CHAIRPERSON

January 23, 2007

ALL LICENSEES
EXECUTIVE STAFF

RE: Illegal Smuggling – Michigan Identifiable Labels

In an effort to eliminate the illegal trafficking of bootleg spirits coming into Michigan, the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, in cooperation with unnamed spirit suppliers, will begin shipping Michigan identifiable containers in January 2007. These containers will incorporate identifiable markings providing a means for Commission Enforcement Officers and other law enforcement agencies to verify whether specific spirit products were legally purchased through Michigan's ADA distribution system. We are advising all retail licensees authorized to sell spirit products in advance of these labeling changes in the hope that it will deter further illegal smuggling activity.

As much as the Commission would like to give proper credit to our supplier partners in this Michigan labeling project, we are unable to do so due to obvious enforcement reasons. The Commission is extremely grateful for the unnamed suppliers' leadership in helping combat illegal smuggling activities in Michigan that is costing the State of Michigan, law abiding licensees and its Michigan citizens millions of dollars in lost revenue. We are all losers as a result of illegal smuggling activities.

These Michigan identifiable labels give the Commission one more tool in fighting illegal smuggling activities. In addition to citing licensees for Liquor Control Code violations, the Commission will continue to work closely with the Attorney General's Office along with state and federal law enforcement agencies to aggressively prosecute all violators, including licensees, through the criminal justice system. The Commission will continue to be vigilant and will use all available law enforcement resources to combat continuing illegal smuggling activities.

Smuggling information may be anonymously reported to the Commission by email at <https://www6.dleg.state.mi.us/Parsers/complain.asp>, or by mailing to MLCC, 7150 Harris Drive, P.O. Box 30005, Lansing, MI 48909, or by telephone at 1-866-893-2121.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION

Rick Perkins, Director
Enforcement Division

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